charge of 0.25% per annum on the undisbursed loan amount, the first payment becoming due together with the first interest payment.

(d) No, Sir. No individual official is considered responsible as the delay in drawal of the loan has been occasioned by a review of the scope of the project keeping in view the operational constraints of the Indian Railways and also the technological advances in recents times.

Sleeper Class Reservation from New Jalpaiguri

3769. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sleeper class passengers cannot board in North East Express bound for Delhi from Jalpaiguri station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Army and para-military personnels are forced to board in sleeper classes without any reservation, from N.J.P.; and

(c) whether Government would arrange one extra Military coach from N.J.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such complaint has been received.

(c) One General Second Class coach is exclusively earmarked by North East Express for Defence Personnel. Moreover, Railways always provide high priority to the movement of Defence personnel and Coaches/Wagons are immediately arranged for Defence related requirements.

Bring down the Expenditure incurred on Railway Operations

†3770. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain possibilities have been explored by Government to bring down the expenditure to be incurred on railway operations;

(b) if so, the percentage of expenditure expected to be brought down with regard to the present railway operations expenditure; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

1741\RSVF-9A